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D M Pestonjee
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Women Entrepreneurship and Empowerment (Wee): A Study of Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh

Gitanjali Upadhaya
Nisha Devi

ABSTRACT

Women are one of the untapped human resources in India constituting approximately 50 percent of total population. Women need to be empowered by promoting their active participation in all spheres and strengthening the economy as a whole. Entrepreneurship is one of such platforms where women can exhibit their talent and contribute in a productive way for developing themselves, their family, society and nation at large. According to sixth Economic census conducted by H.P. Economics & Statistics Department in 2013, out of 4.12 lakh small businesses in the state 49,173 (11.9%) are run by women entrepreneurs. The Census said that 72.73% women entrepreneurs were engaged in non-agricultural activities, highest number of them running educational institutions (*The Times of India* dated 28th March, 2016). Therefore, this study will be focused on the extent of women empowerment through entrepreneurship in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. This research work would be helpful for future researchers to understand the relationship between women entrepreneurship and empowerment. It will also help the policy makers in knowing various obstacles faced by women entrepreneurs and the possible solutions to eradicate such problems.

Keywords: Women Entrepreneurship, Women Empowerment, Himachal Pradesh